

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The

Tricentennial

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH 22, 1998

It's Happening!

As the kickoff for our Tricentennial Celebration draws near, volunteers are working diligently to finalize plans for the event.

Entertainment is booked, food providers have been contacted, speakers have been briefed and logistics for the evening are in the final stages of completion. All in all, it appears that we have a very special evening planned. All that is left to do is to insure that everyone is in attendance.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your invitation. We apologize for the informality of including it with this mailing, but with postage costs what they are, this was the most cost effective way of delivering the invitation to the 800+ people on our mailing list. Please RSVP as indicated on the invitation so that we can have as accurate a count as possible. In the event that your plans change or should you fail to RSVP, feel free to join us regardless.

There is no charge for this event. We will be accepting donations at the door for those who would like to help to offset the cost of the evening plus help the effort to raise funds for our Tricentennial Celebration. The d'Iberville bust has been completed and is currently at the foundry to be bronzed. The highlight of the evening will be sculptor/donor Michelle Smith. This bust will serve as the centerpiece of our celebration. Students from area schools will not only participate in the kickoff, but will also be a focal point of the entire two-year effort.

If you care about our community, its heritage, and its future, please plan on joining us. Together, we can make great things happen. See you on the 2nd!



MICHELLE DRANE SMITH

SCULPTOR/DONOR OF D'IBERVILLE BUST

Michelle Drane Smith is a native of Louisiana who has lived and worked in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast for thirty years. She first studied oil painting at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts with Auseklis Ozols, specializing in portraits and historical buildings.

A latent interest in sculpture began at Las Belles Artes Institute in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico with Maestro Lothar Kestenbaum, working in both fired clay and bronze with a major emphasis on portraiture.

She has exhibited her work in Biloxi, Jackson, and Meridian, Mississippi; and in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Alexandria, Louisiana; as well as San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

A commemorative bust of Miss Fannye A. Cook, a Mississippi pioneer conservationist, is a part of the collection at the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi.

For the Tricentennial Celebration 1999, Michelle has completed a life size bust of Pierre Lemoyne, Sieur d'Iberville. This statuary, Pass Christian's first sculpture to honor our forbear, will eventually be on permanent

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Michelle Drane Smith

(continued from front page)

display near the Memorial Park in Pass Christian. Her labor of love is her way of contributing to the Coast's Heritage and Pass Christian where Michelle has resided for the past four years.

The Tricentennial Committee members and the citizens of Pass Christian Area are most grateful to receive this gift of her wonderful talent in addition to the expedience of her time. Not only has she performed this artful and superb task, but she took it upon herself to carry the weighty sculpture to the foundry in Louisiana. Furthermore, she has made several trips there to supervise the bronzing work which cost is being underwritten by the Tricentennial Committee. The City and its residents are blessed by such an historic masterpiece as will be exhibited at the upcoming Kickoff Dinner on April 2. The sculpture of the d'Iberville bust will be placed on display in the area's public buildings, schools, and churches and shown at our yearlong events in 1999.

BLUE BIRDS AFLYIN'

Blue Skies Gallery, located at 102 West Second Street has undergone a new facelift. Local artist Tazewell Morton was given a free reign to paint a mural on the east wall. The gallery moved to this location a little over two years ago. Owner, Marion Knobbe says, "After transforming the interior, it is now time to add life to the exterior." Tazewell has covered the walls with his stylistic birds and fish. "The concept of the mural is to attract attention while creating a colorful corner for Pass Christian," stated Knobbe.

MISSISSIPPI



The northern Mississippi Territory was formed from and ceded to the United States by South Carolina and by Georgia. Southern Mississippi was formed partly by that which was British West Florida and party that of land ceded by the French. In 1798, this was known as the Territory of Mississippi, prior to Mississippi's gaining statehood in 1817.

For many years there were land claim disputes further confused by a real estate venture, known as the Georgia-Mississippi Co., which had purchased the lower half of Mississippi from the State of Georgia in 1795. In 1805, by an Act of Congress, claims were first settled in the remaining area of the Territory of Mississippi. British and Spanish grants were first considered and honored. Those settlers who arrived before October 27, 1795, were confirmed with a provision that included a forfeiture clause which required land improvements within 10 years. To those emigrating under Spanish authority before 1797 and to those settlers coming from Georgia under agreements dated prior to 1802, land grants of 640 acres were issued.

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BATTLE OVER THE BIVALVES

Ever hear the fish story about the settlement of the boundary line between Louisiana and Mississippi? The prevailing story as retold many times by many persons of intellect as well as commercial and sports fishermen was that the argument was decided over a keg. Some say an empty keg of nails and others claim a keg of beer, indubitably, it was all a fish story.

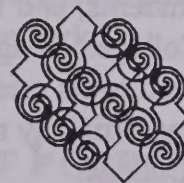
The truth of the matter can be found in a lengthy legal case settled by the U.S. Supreme Court on March 5, 1906. Known as the Louisiana v. Mississippi suit, it was not settled by the international doctrine of the *thalweg*, meaning the main channel or midway of landlocked water bodies -- because the open waters of Lake Borgne and the Mississippi Sound were the areas of continuing conflict.

The dispute began due to the difference between state laws concerning oysters. Mississippi permitted the dredging of oysters on its natural oyster reefs, whereas, Louisiana prohibited such dredging. At that time, neither State marked their boundaries by the use of buoys or other line dividers, except by the United States Government in deep water channels. To prevent the intrusion of Mississippi oystermen with dredging vessels, a call was made to mark the water boundaries by Louisianans.

To prevent fishers and sheriffs from taking up arms, resulted in each state agreeing to create separate commissions to solve the boundary disputes and to mark the stipulated water bodies. However, since neither commission could agree with the other, they decided that a friendly suit was their

only recourse.

Three days of legal arguments were presented to the U.S. Supreme Court and the formal ruling was ultimately settled in Louisiana's favor. A true boundary was established to be the deep water channel sailing line emerging from the most eastern mouth of Pearl River into Lake Borgne. Then extending through the northeast corner of Lake Borgne, north of Half Moon or Grand Island, thence east and south through the Mississippi Sound, and continuing through South Pass between Cat Island and Isle a Pitre, to the Gulf of Mexico. This route was delineated on an 1898 geodetic map, which was made a part of the decree.



HISTORY OF THE FLAGS

The British Red Ensign was the second flag to fly over our coastal area, from 1763 to 1780, following the French colonization era.

In 1707, Queen Anne changed the British flag from a combination of the Cross of St. George and the Cross of St. Andrew on a blue field to a solid red field with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew in a reduced fashion in the canton corner. This flag was used throughout the American Revolution and was flown over Mississippi when Britain gained control of the area from the French in 1763.

Profile

Dr. J. J. Hayden, Jr.

Pillar of the Gulf Coast College Network

Dr. J.J. Hayden, Jr. is a member of the Tricentennial Historians Committee. He has an extensive background in the field of Education, bearing the title of President Emeritus of the Gulf Coast Junior College and is a formidable leader in promoting Pass Christian.

After graduating from Pass Christian High School, he attended the Perkinston campus where he played football for the years 1938 and 1939. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Mississippi State College, and was conferred with a Doctorate of Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1966.

Doctor Hayden served in the U.S. Air Force during 1940 and 1941 and was a Chief Boatswain Mate in the Coast Guard from 1941 to 1945. After several years as an instructor, in 1952, he was appointed Dean of Students, and in 1953, as Acting President of the College. At age 33, he was the first alumnus to succeed to its presidency, and the youngest, when he was officially named President of Perkinston Junior College.

During Dr. Hayden's tenure, he pressed for legislative change, bond issues, and financial aid for building programs fulfilling the need for new dormitories, physical education expansion, and general renovation. His agenda included additions of gymnasiums, classrooms, lecture rooms, libraries and other required facilities to existing and branch campus expansions at Perkinston, Gulfport, Gautier and the George County Occupational Training Center at Lucedale.

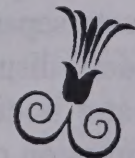
Dr. Hayden, well known for his dedication to performance, was appointed to numerous Boards and societies. In 1985, after 32 years of proven leadership, Dr. Hayden retired from the Gulf Coast Junior College's presidency. The fol-

lowing year, he was bestowed as President Emeritus and was the 16th Alumnus to be inducted into its *Alumni Hall of Fame*. In 1987, the new men's dorm at Perkinston was named in his honor.

In his retirement, Dr. Hayden continues to remain active in community endeavors. Having served as a counselor for three years with the Service Corps of Retired Executives, in 1988 he was appointed SCORE's Chairman.

Like his father, Julius J. Hayden Sr., a former member of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors, Dr. J.J. Hayden has participated for many years in countless civic and educational associations. Even in his present term of post-retirement, Dr. Hayden has sustained his love for Coast Historical development and its folklore. Long a member of the Mississippi Historical Society, he has also served as it's President. He is further distinguished by having written the first History of Pass Christian as his thesis preparation for his Master's Degree in 1950.

The College network of coastal campuses that Dr. Hayden designed and implemented is now called the **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College**. He has evidenced himself not just as an Educator, but as the Pillar of the present Gulf Coast College Network.



COMING HOME

People say you can't go back
Once time has slipped on by.
Things can never be the same
However hard you try.



But return, I did, to this place
So dear unto my heart,
The place where yearning ends
And myriad memories start



Of baseball games at the park,
Of walks home hand in hand,
Of meetings on the seawall,
And bonfires in the sand,

Of watermelon, spitting seeds,
Of movies and ice cream,
Of moonlight kisses stolen,
And every hope and dream.

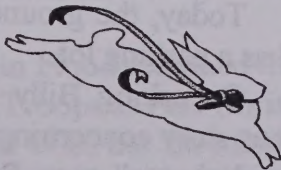


Memories, too, of love's first bloom,
Summer's spell that touched us all,
Love's beginning and its end
And all the tears it caused to fall.

I'm home again and here I'll stay,
Never regretting that I came,
For old friends here are dearer still,
Though things will never be the same.

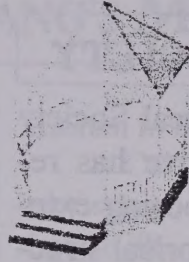
by Jessie H.

BUNNY TALK



Easter Sunday will be on April 12, for 1998. The latest date on which Easter can fall is April 25 (which occurred in 1943). It is estimated that it will not occur on April 25th again for another 800 years. The earliest date for Easter is March 22nd.

GAZEBO UPDATE



Coral Trepagnier had a specific design in mind for the Gazebo she worked so hard to see built in the park. She clipped a photograph of a Dallas gazebo that Jeanne Stanbro researched as a basis of the design she submitted to Mrs. Trepagnier for approval. Jeanne asked her draftsman to do a drawing of her design which was submitted to the *Ladies of the Harbor Shop* for approval and L&B Enterprises, Inc. built the structure. A substantial foundation was prepared to withstand hurricane winds that at most would simply call for replacing the lost wooden structure. For many years Lee Stanbro maintained the structure by repairing damage by Mother Nature, vandals, etc.

For on-going maintenance, a fund is kept at the Hancock Bank in the name of "Friends of the Gazebo." This money was provided by the *Ladies of the Harbor Shop* and represents hundreds of volunteer hours. Without Corals vision and hard work we probably would not have a "Gazebo in the Park."

KICK-OFF FOOD SPONSORS

In response for Food Sponsors, the following establishments have answered the call to please Pass palates with savory victuals. Annie's, Cafe du Soleil, Chimney's, Rusty Pelican, St. Louis Cafe, Second St. Deli, and the Sheriff's Culinary Chefs.

BOTANICA OPENING



Betsy Burgess is opening her Home and Garden Botanica on March 28th. We welcome the new business and congratulate her for the beautiful transition at 118 W. Scenic Drive.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pass Christian Historical Society building at 203 East Scenic Drive has recently undergone a new and imposing exterior painting. Alongside the historical structure is a new Flag pole as a dedication to the memory of one of its formidable past officers, Bill Kidd. Bill will always be remembered for his energies in promoting and producing *The Pass Christian Review*, a monthly magazine.

A non-profit organization, supervised by a Board of Directors and elected officers, is headed by John Lutenbacher, its president. One of its main features is the annual Tour of Homes which is promised to be outstanding for the year 1999. Membership is nominal at \$15 per individual and \$25 for Family affiliation.

Speakers at the regular monthly meetings, the second Monday evening of each month, usually present an educational and entertaining program. Upcoming events are: An April 17 trip to Jackson to view the *Splendors of Versailles*. Louis XIV, the Sun King, ruled France from 1643 to 1715 during one of its most brilliant periods. Versailles was built and became the center of government. He believed that he was God's earthly representative and that all disobedience to him was sinful. Louis XIV remains the symbol of an absolute monarch of the classical age and the name sake for the Louisiana Territory.

Another event will be held on Sunday, May 17, the Society will sponsor a dinner meeting. The guest of honor, Grady Howell, will expound upon one of his books, *To Live*

THE SPERIER BAR

The bar was located at the northeast corner of Market Avenue and Second Street until March 1974. It was reported to possibly be the Pass's first nightspot outside of the famed "Hotels of the Pass."

Until Hurricane Camille in 1969, the lounge and sometimes pseudo grocery was a gathering place for Pass patrons and their friends. The downstairs bar reportedly supported the generations of Speriers who resided in the upstairs living quarters.

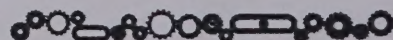
Customary for the times, there was an entrance for Whites and a separate entrance for Blacks. Later, the bars were joined into one.

The last owner, Louis J. Sperier, was forced to close the store and it was demolished for safety and health reasons. The repairs made following Camille were declared inadequate to sustain its foundation or to eliminate the health hazards. Rotting timbers in the walls and risky flooring resulted in its being condemned by the City and razed.

Along with it went the dusty jukebox, weathered tables and rickety chairs. The wrecking crew disclosed a massive underground cache of ammunition reportedly left over from Civil War days.

Today, the grounds remain vacant and used as a parking lot.

On asking Billy Bourdin about a humorous story concerning the Bar, he promptly retorted that ol' man Parnell of the *Tarpon Beacon* claimed that if he took a picture of the front of Sperier's Bar and came back two weeks later to take another photo, people would swear that he had simply used the same negative twice.



SNIPPETS FROM JOHN LANG'S MEMOIRS OF 1935

John Lang was a former Mayor of Pass Christian having served a term in 1905. He was an aggressive leader and promoter in various businesses as well as a real estate developer. He established his mark, both at Pass Christian and was a major player in the development of the City of Gulfport during its founding years of 1898 onward.

He introduced Captain Joseph Jones to many of the business people of the Coast and hired a boat to tour Ship Island and Cat Island during one of Jones' early visits. Captain Jones was the financial backer for the development of the City of Gulfport, the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad, the building of the Port, and the dredging of the harbor and deep-sea channel to Ship Island. One of Lang's promotions was the first importation of bananas into the fledgling Port of Gulfport in 1920. Today, Gulfport imports nearly 800,000 tons of bananas, making it the #1 Port for banana imports in the United States.

Maintaining a voice in all community matters, he was swift to communicate his zeal for many causes by writing articles and letters to the various coastal newspapers. In 1935, while aging and having lost his eyesight, he reported his memoirs to his daughter. This resulted in the publication of his memoirs as the *History of Harrison County*. John Lang's book is quite interesting and is well worth reading. Some of his reflections follow.

In 1811, Captain Flood stationed the first garrison of American Troops at Pass Christian.

During the Civil War, the 7th Mississippi Regiment was encamped at East End Pass Christian on the grounds where the Villa Karma home is located. (at the eastern end of Scenic Drive)

At the end of the Civil War, 1864-65, a battalion of Federal Troops was stationed at Pass Christian and was later moved to Mississippi City where in 1865, the troops were gar-

risoned in the old Tegarden Hotel.

Col. E.H. Murphree established a military school at West End Pass Christian in the late 1870s.

In 1888, and for several years afterward, Fort Henry was built to maintain coastal protection with revolving encampments of visiting military batteries. (Fort Henry - near Henderson Point)

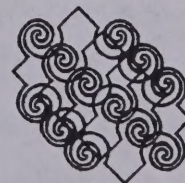
After World War I, the Gulf Coast was declared the most healthful site in the United States, partially due to its numerous artesian wells. This resulted in the large number of military complexes and veterans hospitals.

The first well drilled for artesian water was discovered on the Gulf Coast in 1884 by John T. Hardie. It was located between the Stauffer and Rainold places in Pass Christian. The Sutter brothers of Pass Christian went into business digging wells throughout the whole coast and south Mississippi including Ship and Cat islands.

There was an old Creole cemetery located on Bayou Portage at the site of Bayou Lands.

In DeLisle, on the Wolf River at Dimitry Point there was a large Indian mound of shells. These clam shells were later hauled off to cover over the sawdust on Front Street of Pass Christian.

Before the Civil War, there were many saw mills, brick yards, shipyards, and coal yards at DeLisle, known as Wolfstown. One of the famous shipbuilders was Martinolich.



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